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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 003301

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/20/2015

TAGS: PTER PREL SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN SUPPORTS EU LISTING OF LTTE AS TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 172115

Classified By: Political Officer Kathy Fitzpatrick; reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

(C) Poloff conveyed reftel points on 9/19 to Miguel Garcia Herraiz in the MFA Directorate General for Terrorism, Arms Control, and Disarmament and urged Spanish support for the listing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organization. Herraiz said he had been carefully following the issue within the EU and that the consensus was clearly shifting towards the view that the Sri Lankan peace process would be best served by listing the LTTE as a terrorist group, a position Spain supports. He cautioned, however, that the debate remains open, as some EU members continue to believe that an EU listing of the LTTE would simply push the group towards greater radicalization. Herraiz said the assassination of Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar had undermined this view, demonstrating that the Tigers were edging towards greater violence on their own account and had to be restrained. He said that an EU listing of the LTTE could be virtually assured if the LTTE's responsibility for the killing could be definitively established.

AGUIRRE